

APPROVED
Heartland Regional
Local Human Rights Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2006
6PM
Helton House Day Support Site
Rice, VA

Members Present: Virginia Berkley, Shelia Tisdale, Aaron Myers, and Bettie Hazelwood

Members absent: Sisty Cersley, Royce Cersley, and Darin Knicely

Others Present: Edward & Mike Helton and Mattie Walker-Helton House, Ava Brendle, Virginia Baptist Children's Home & Family Services, Dr. Myer Waxler & Gregory Kirby-VP&J Services, Mary Taylor & Camilla Scott-Mary's Rest Home, and Gail Worrall -Family Preservation Services

Others absent: Michael Jordan-Next Level Residential Services and Stacia Macklin-United Methodist Family Services

Virginia Berkley, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Minutes

The minutes from the January 9, 2006 meeting were approved as written.

Updated By-Laws

The Committee reviewed the February 2, 2006 memorandum for the SHRC concerning recommended changes to by-laws. The Committee voted unanimously to accept the SHRC recommended changes to include recommending members who miss three meetings per year for Committee removal.

Recruitment

This Committee is losing two professional/concerned citizen members on June 30, 2006. The Committee will begin to recruit for these vacancies. One Committee member took an application and one affiliated program took two applications, as both hope they know people who have interest in serving.

Member reappointments

Royce Cersley and Darin Knicely were not in attendance, therefore, a reappointment vote will occur when members attend.

Affiliation Request

Mike and Ed Helton, Executive Directors of Helton House requested affiliation for their day support—Life Strides. The Committee voted unanimously to grant affiliation for this program.

Regional Advocate Report

Sherry Miles advised the Committee that the proposed human rights regulations will be available for public comment in the near future and she will ensure each person is aware of their availability to ensure their opportunity to comment. As well, she directed those present to the website to begin review of the draft regulations and to begin making comments before the official public comment period.

She distributed the 2006 LHRC/SHRC Seminar Survey to members. Those unable to complete the document during the meeting were provided with a self addressed stamped envelope to mail the document directly to Margaret Walsh, State Human Rights Director. She advised the Committee of the tentative dates and the plan to possibly allow providers to send one representative. Ms. Miles will advise the Committee as seminar details are finalized.

Ms. Miles distributed a copy of "Human Writes" and encouraged members to respond to the SHRC with comments or suggestions.

Ms. Miles advised the Committee that the SHRC would be having its April 21, 2006 meeting at Piedmont Geriatric Hospital and invited any one interested to attend.

The issue of clerical support was tabled until all providers attended. However, it was stressed this support is needed as the OHR does not run the LHRC.

Affiliate Reports**Family Preservation Services**

Gail Worrall reported no changes or problems at Family Preservation Services.

Helton House

Ed and Mike Helton introduced Mattie Walker as their new MR Residential Supervisor. The new day support, Life Strides, has six consumers and necessary paperwork is being finalized. The residential program currently has two vacancies. They reported no complaints or allegations of abuse/neglect.

Mary's Rest Home

Mary Taylor reported no complaints or allegations of abuse/neglect. The program currently has two vacancies.

Next Level Residential Services

Absent

VP&J Services

Dr. Myer Waxler represented this program. He reported that the program had not opened the home in Amelia and may have changed their plans to do so. He will have Vanessa Harvey call Ms. Miles to determine the need for an affiliation.

Virginia Baptist Children's Home

Ava Brendle reported progress on opening the new home has been steady. An open house was held and six applications have been accepted but it is not definite if all will attend the program. Program is in the process of hiring staff.

United Methodist Family Services

Absent

Members Recognition

Virginia Berkley recognized Bettie Hazelwood and Shelia Tisdale for their years of service to the Committee. Each received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services.

Next Meeting

The Committee decided to meet on either July 24 or July 31, 2006 at 6PM at the Helton House-Day Support in Rice. The exact meeting date depends upon the availability of the other members.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.